(f) The facility entails non-recurring financial implication of not more than Rs. 800/- per employee on account of installation charge and recurring financial implications of not more than Rs. 3000/- per annum per employee on account of rental for telephone.

Rules framed for Extra Departmental Agents

205. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of Extra Departmental Agents working in various post offices in the country, circle-wise;

(b) whether Government have received any Memorandum from them to provide them better service condition and wages;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to consider their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The information is given in the enclosed statement. *(See* below)

(b) Demands relating to allowance and other conditions of employment of ED Agents were part of the Charter of demands submitted by the Postal Federations in November, 2000.

(c) and (d) Extra Departmental Agents now called Gramin Dak Sevaks are employed for a period of duty ranging from 2 to 5 hours a day. They do not form part of the regular civil services and their terms and conditions of employment are governed by separate set of rules, earlier named P&T ED Agents (Conduct & Service) Rules, 1964, and now amended as Gramin Dak Sevaks (Conduct & Employment) Rules, 2001, incorporating the changed nomenclature of ED As and also be specific characteristics of the ED system. In the context of Fifth Central Pay Commission for regular Central Government Employees, the Government had set up a one-man committee headed by Justice Charanjit Talwar to examine the wage structure and other conditions of employment of ED Agents. After

due consideration of the recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee, the Government extended the following package of benefits to Gramin Dak Sevaks:—

(i) Increasing the allowance of Gramin Dak Sevaks by a factor of 3.25 for the period 1.1.1996 to 28.2.1998.

(ii) Introducing the concept of Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) in lieu of monthly allowance related to workload.

(iii) Increasing the amount of ex-gratia gratuity admissible from Rs. 6,000/- to Rs. 18,000/-.

(iv) Introducing the concept of paid leave at the rate of 10 days for every half-year without the provision of carry forward or encashment.

(v) Increasing office maintenance allowance admissible to Gramin Dak Sevaks BPM from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 50/- per month.

(vi) Providing for lump sum Severance Amount of Rs. 20,000/- or Rs. 30,000/- depending on period of employment as post-employment benefit, on discharge from employment at the age of 65 years or death in harness or on absorption against departmental post.

These benefits were extended in full and final settlement of all pending demands relating to recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee. As regards demand for pension, no Government sponsored Social Security Scheme was found feasible, specially when provision for Severance Amount already exists. A Social Security Scheme formulated in consultation with LIC has been forwarded to the Postal Tcderations.

Statement

Circle-wise No. of Gramin Dak Sevaks as on 31.3.2000

Sl.No.	Name of the Circle	No. of Gramin Dak Sevaks
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30333
2.	Assam	8908
3.	Bihar	24466
4.	Delhi	489

Sl.No.	Name of the Circle	No. of Gramin Dak Scvaks
5.	Gujarat	17608
6.	Haryana	4430
7.	Himachal Pradesh	6720
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	2903
9.	Karnataka	17276
10.	Kerala	12146
11.	Madhya Pradesh	23406
12.	Maharashtra	23802
13.	North Eastern	7677
14.	Orissa	18453
15.	Punjab	6686
16.	Rajasthan	16223
17.	Tamil Nadu	24873
18.	Uttar Pradesh	41063 .
19.	West Bengal	22160
	TOTAL	309649

Share price of VSNL

206. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the dates since which the price of VSNL's shares started coming down in the share market;

(b) the date-wise share prices of VSNL's shares from February, 2000 onwards;

(c) the date on which Government decided to end VSNL's monopoly in International Long Distance Telephony;

(d) whether it is a fact that the price of VSNL's share price started coming down much before the end of monopoly was advanced;

(e) whether such slide was in keeping with general movement of sensex;

(f) if not, whether any Enquiry to understand such movement was undertaken; and